

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

**SB 371 - HB 1001**

April 3, 2021

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Requires the Basic Education Program (BEP) formula to provide funding for one full-time school counselor position for each 250 students or one full-time position for each local education agency, whichever is greater.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

Increase State Expenditures - \$67,565,700/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006407):** Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Requires the BEP formula to provide funding for one full-time school counselor position for each 350 students or one full-time position for each local education agency, whichever is greater.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$20,807,600/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Counselors in grades kindergarten through six are funded at a ratio of 1:500 students and counselors in grades seven through twelve are funded at a ratio of 1:350 students.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Education (DOE), changing the funding ratio for school counselors to 1:350 students will increase the number of counselor positions generated through the BEP from 2,295.2 to 2,791.6, for a net increase of approximately 496.4 positions.
- The state share of the BEP will fund approximately \$41,917 per nursing position.
- Re-calculating the FY20-21 BEP, using a counselor to student ratio of 1:350 will result in an increase in state expenditures of \$20,807,599 (496.4 positions x \$41,917).
- The increase in BEP funding will increase the minimum required local match by \$11,907,000 for districts receiving an increase in BEP funding as a result of this bill.
- Based on FY20-21 local maintenance of effort levels, no local school districts will need to increase their BEP local match contributions as a result of the proposed legislation, as all districts are currently contributing local funds in excess of the minimum required

local match and the increased local match requirements mandated by this legislation do not exceed such current local contributions for any of the districts.

- However, future legislation which alters the BEP funding formula may result in local governments utilizing current excess local contributions to fund the minimum local match requirement and a combination of multiple such legislation may result in mandatory increases in local match requirements for certain school districts.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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